WEIRD STUFF

10 Notable People Thought To Be Immortal

THEODOROS II MAY 28, 2013

Death is terrifying to most people. For many, the idea of living forever and attaining immortality is a much better alternative than death. This list includes ten human beings declared to be immortal during their life (and sometimes after—despite death) and as with every story of mystery, myth and legend gets mixed with facts and history, making things even more complicated for us.

Common sense tells us that everything dies. But rather than face that dark truth, humankind continues to believe in alternative sources of infinite life and these ten stories are no exception to this rule.

10 The Three Nephites

The stories of the Three Nephites comprise one of the most striking religious legends in the United States. Bearing some resemblance to stories of the prophet Elijah in Jewish lore, or of the Christian saints in the Catholic tradition, the Three Nephite accounts are nevertheless distinctly Mormon. The members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as Mormons, believe that Jesus Christ visited America after his resurrection and chose 12 apostles from among an ancient group of people there called the Nephites to help spread his Gospel message in the new world. Three of those apostles asked Jesus to change them from human beings into angels and let them remain on Earth until the end of the world so they could help people in need wherever they traveled on the planet, according to the Book of Mormon. Those three translated beings (people who have become angels) are known as the Three Nephites, and stories about their appearances have become a popular part of Mormon lore.

9 Memnon

In Greek mythology, Memnon was an Ethiopian king (probably the most popular figure of African heritage in Greek mythology) and son of Tithonus and Eos. During his life he was thought to be an immortal, while as a warrior he was considered to be inferior only to Achilles. At the Trojan War, he brought an army to Troy's defense but he was killed by Achilles in retribution for killing Antilochus. The death of Memnon echoes that of Hector, another defender of Troy whom Achilles also killed out of revenge for a fallen comrade, Patroclus. Memnon's death is related at length in the lost epic Aethiopis, composed after The Iliad around the 7th century B.C. Quintus of Smyrna records Memnon's death in Posthomerica. His death is also described in Philostratus' Imagines. Memnon's story might not be very popular, but it's definitely one of the most intense to read if the chance is given.

8 Leonard Jones

Leonard Jones wasn't an immortal of course and he knew it very well. He was not a very successful politician either, but like most politicians he had the power of convincing others. No matter how unbelievable it might sound to us now, the fact is that he ran his political campaign on the platform of his immortality, and what's even more odd is that he convinced a lot of people who subsequently voted for him.

The eccentric American who was born in Kentucky in 1797, repeatedly ran for President of the United States and Governor of Kentucky, citing his self-proclaimed immortality as his main political argument. According to Mr. Jones immortality could be achieved through prayer and fasting. He obviously didn't do enough of these two, because he died from Pneumonia on August 30, 1868 at the young age (for an immortal) of 71.

7 Merlin

Most people think of Merlin as an elderly man with a long white beard and a tall pointed hat, who was a magician at the court of King Arthur. But the question is, did he really exist? His father according to legend was an incubus, a demon in male form, who had sexual intercourse with his mortal mother. Merlin was an infamous immortal, who has appeared in various folklore, fairy tales and films. The eternally ancient warlock originates in Old English history, and is most popularly associated with King Arthur, the Lady of the Lake and the Knights of the Round Table. Some fans, even to this day believe that as an immortal he's still around and protects the royal family of England. As every mythical human figure, Merlin the man behind the myth, probably existed, but like so many other "immortals" before and after him, he probably died too.

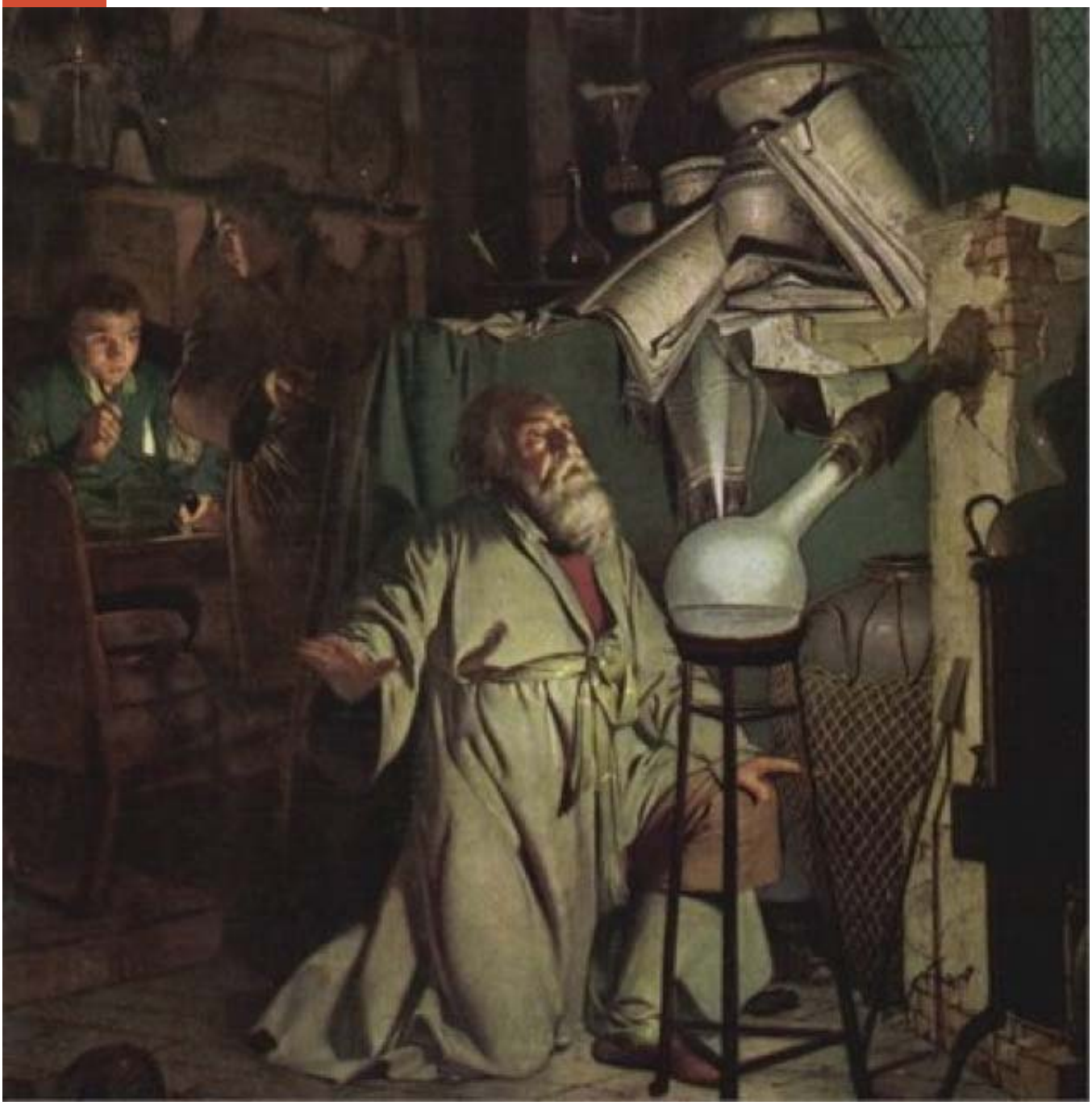
6 Achilles

Many historians today would agree that Achilles existed and Homer just exaggerated his warrior-skills and accomplishments. Most scholars nowadays believe that Troy itself was no imaginary Shangri-la but a real city, and that the Trojan War indeed happened. Archaeologists who have been digging into the myth of Homer's poem, believe the legendary war may have been a process rather than a single event and most (if not all) figures mentioned by Homer, indeed existed.

Back to our topic, according to the myths, Achilles was dipped into the river Styx as a baby by his mother to gain impenetrable skin against any weapons, so he was practically invincible . . . Until the moment that Paris decided to poison his heel, which his mother held onto him by. It is generally believed that Achilles was shot in the heel with an arrow and the tendon of the heel has become known as Achilles Tendon and the term Achilles' Heel has become a metaphor for vulnerability of any sort, after the story of the great epic warrior.

Nicolas Flamel

5



If you're into mysteries, magic and adventures, then you should definitely check out the story of Nicolas and Perenelle Flamel. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Nicholas Flamel is featured as the creator of the "Philosopher's Stone." Because this stone allows its owner to live forever, it must be protected from falling into the hands of the evil Lord Voldemort.

Although Harry Potter is fictional, Frenchman Nicolas Flamel lived during the late 14th and early 15th centuries. A scholar and scribe, Flamel devoted his life to understanding the text

of a mysterious book filled with encoded alchemical symbols that some believed held the secrets of the Philosopher's Stone. Many myths surround Flamel, including the belief that he successfully created the Stone. His death in 1417 didn't hurt that myth, and his quest for the Philosopher's Stone lives on in his writings. Although modern scholarship has cast doubt on the authenticity of alchemical texts ascribed to him, he remains an important figure in the alchemical world.

4 Wandering Jew

THE WANDERING JEW.

As Christ was carrying His cross to Golgotha, He stopped for a moment to rest outside the house of a shoemaker named Ahasuerus. When Ahasuerus saw this, he jeered at the Savior, asking Him why He was dallying. Christ then looked at Ahasuerus and pronounced the curse: "I will stand here and rest, but you must wander the Earth until I return". The Wandering Jew many centuries later would become a very popular figure all over the medieval Christian world that spread widely in Europe in the thirteenth century and became a fixture of Christian mythology and literature. The legend of the wandering Jew is founded in part on Jesus' words given in Matthew 16:28: "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." The story has endless variations. Sometimes Ahasuerus is an old man; sometimes he remains forever young; sometimes he ages and then returns to youth. Ahasuerus is condemned to remember all his past lives according to the myth, but for some reason I tend to believe that the real person Ahasuerus lived only one life and he has been long gone since then.

3 Count of St. Germain

Enigmatic and attractive, the young count's skin seemed not to have experienced the passage of time. He used to move from one place to another every moment, taking with him the great secret of his personality, as captivating as it was mysterious. Myths, legends

and speculations about St. Germain began to be widespread in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and continue today. They include beliefs that he is immortal, the Wandering Jew, an alchemist with the "Elixir of Life", and that he prophesied the French Revolution. The Count of St. Germain has been variously described as a courtier, adventurer, charlatan, inventor, alchemist, pianist, violinist and amateur composer, but his story remains one of the biggest mysteries to this day.

After a charmed life of meeting leaders and dignitaries from around the globe, in 1779 the mysterious count arrived in Eckenförde, Germany, where—according to some official records—he passed away in his residence there in the year 1784; however, there is no tombstone in that town bearing his name. Almost 200 years after his death, Richard Chanfray, a French magician and singer claimed to be the Count of St. Germain, but unfortunately he died too.

2 Heracles

Heracles' story is one of the most famous around the world. No other individual has

achieved so much glory on a universal level, for so many centuries. The stories and labors of Heracles, a man who was so strong and courageous, whose deeds were so mighty, and who so endured all the hardships that were given to him, eventually and according to the legend made him an immortal (metaphorically for sure).

Was there a real Heracles, a man behind these stories? We can't know for sure. The only certain thing is that just like with the discovery of the city of Troy, archaeologists, fired up the curiosity of historians and the imagination of people around the world, when in 2010 they claimed that evidences showed that the tomb they found in the state of Peloponnese, could be the one of the great mythical hero. The only certain thing is that Heracles, the man who probably existed behind the myth, never achieved real immortality of course, but he managed to become the most famous hero of ancient times and probably the most beloved one too. More stories have been told about him than any other hero and his name has indeed remained immortal in time.

1 Qin Shi Huang

Qin Shi Huang, the founder of the Qin dynasty, is until this day best remembered as the

person who gave China a face. His marvelous construction of the Great Wall and the famous Terra cotta Army are both known to everyone in the world. He was one of the most significant Chinese emperors, shaping the country's history and culture. The people around him, heavily influenced by his great accomplishments started to believe that he was immortal and he tried to make it come true.

According to legend, in his search for eternal life, Qin Shihuang sent one of his servants to find the secret of immortality. The servant, Xu Fudong set sail eastward with thousands of young boys and girls. They never returned to China, perhaps because they feared punishment for failing the mission. Legend says that they found and populated the island we now know as Japan. Qin Shihuang died at the age of 50 in 210 B.C. He died of a quick and lethal disease and proved to his dedicated followers that he was as mortal as every other human being.

THEODOROS II

Theodoros II is a bright but extremely unsuccessful lawyer who is willing to write for food and the occasional luxury. He's a veteran and world record holder for most banned accounts on Yahoo Answers and a keen photographer.

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caliphat · 2 years ago

i discovered listverse about a month ago, and have been systematically reading through the posts. they are entertaining, and i usually learn something random. but i find it extremely annoying that most of the times i go to read the comments, they are usually negative. i would believe a lot of time and research goes into creating these lists, and it seems a lot of the people are never satisfied. they always seem to find something to complain/nag about. maybe i am confused, and the whole purpose of this website is just for people to come and see how many things they can pick at and tear apart? but this is me just saying, i love the website, i love reading the lists, you guys are appreciated.

54 · Reply · Share ›

Grant Bowen ↗ caliphat · 2 years ago

Just wait until you start a debate with Ni99a/Ji99a. He's the biggest dick in the world.

5 · Reply · Share ›

Shae ↗ Grant Bowen · 2 years ago

^This guy knows whats up. I'm so over that Ni99a/Ji99a person...

5 · Reply · Share ›

rhijulbec ↗ caliphat · 2 years ago

Well said Newbie! It is a great site to get lost in, but as per usual some have a lot to say about too little. Some of our trolls are actually mainstream now

5 · Reply · Share ›

laurzzcomp · 2 years ago

Cage! Where is Nicholas Cage!

50 · Reply · Share ›

ji99a ↗ laurzzcomp · 2 years ago

To me he died along with Ghost Rider...

53 · Reply · Share ›

Kate Eustace ·

Interesting list Theo. My personal favourite is the Count of St. Germain. Nicely done!
17 · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II
Thank you Katie "50E"
4 · Reply · Share ›

mark ➔ Kate Eustace · 2 years ago
i read about the count in a book called mysteries of the unexplained and couldnt remember who.it was. so i also want to say thank you for having this list and not forgetting him. i was worried id never figure it out
· Reply · Share ›

mark ➔ mark · 2 years ago
not sure how a link was posted to nowhere in my reply but as theres no way to edit and get rid of it sorry people. dont know how it happened.
· Reply · Share ›

Donna Vassos · 2 years ago
Great list, as usual. But you forgot Elvis and Tupac!
12 · Reply · Share ›

Mado ➔ Donna Vassos · 2 years ago
He was talking about real immortals, not clowns.
7 · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II ➔ Donna Vassos · 2 years ago
Ok Domna LOL
6 · Reply · Share ›

News_Flash
Is this account still active?
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Rena
17 year old model here. Elvis was and IS the best looking man of ALL TIME!!!! You are the clown not Elvis! You wish you were Elvis in your dreams!!! I'm so sick of jealous people. Wow what a face and wow what a voice. The king of music! Rena
1 · Reply · Share ›

AreYouStupid? ➔ Rena · 4 months ago
Shut up
· Reply · Share ›

Alina Karasavva · 2 years ago
Achilles has to be my favorite since it symbolizes a lot me :). Good list, very enjoyable :)
10 · Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) · 2 years ago
Well done, Theo! Stories of Troy sparked my interest in archaeology and lead me to major in anthropology.
I really enjoyed this list. The Count of St.Germain was a nice addition to the list, he was one of the first people I thought of after seeing the title.
9 · Reply · Share ›

Anglo-Jamaican
Hey sistah, so were you aware about this king Memnon being a brotha? I had no idea.
5 · Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) ↪ Anglo-Jamaican · 2 years ago
Hey! I was aware, I didn't find out until my sophomore year of college though. It's a lot of Africans in Greek mythology and history. Ancient Greece was filled with different types of people.
3 · Reply · Share ›

Nick The Greek
Last time I checked 99,9% of the Greek statues portrayed white peeps
8 · Reply · Share ›

Jamie Frater Mod ↪ Nick The Greek · 2 years ago
Maybe because they are mostly made of white marble and the paint has fallen off? :)
18 · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II ↪ Jamie Frater · 2 years ago
LOL.... good one
4 · Reply · Share ›

HISTORYGOD
holy crud, the holy one has returned
2 · Reply · Share ›

Hestie Barnard Gerber
Lol!
1 · Reply · Share ›

Cynthia Hughes

That actually is true, all those statues we have left were, at one time wonderfully painted. They were never meant to remain "plain" white marble.

Reply • Share ›

Rena ➔ Jamie Frater • 2 years ago

I believe they were referring to the features of the statues! Did their features fall off also? Damn people. Does everything need to be black to be great? Blacks are sooooooo racist. Most have no clue. What if whites started saying Martin L King was really white? Get a clue people. Blacks hate whites down deep. It's preached into them from birth by black leaders. Example. Take 1 black person, and put them in a crowd of 100 whites. They could and would talk boldly about their black heritage. They would feel and be completely safe and accepted totally. Yet put a white with 100 blacks. They would be hated. They would be laughed at. They would most likely get mugged or raped. Maybe not the last part every time. But they would never be accepted EVER! It was WHITE PEOPLE who elected Obama. Without our vote he would have never gotten in!!! Sorry if the truth hurts. I got a bit offended by the post. Instead of attacking me WHITE PEOPLE and calling me racist. Why not just accept the real truth. Yes there are good blacks also. Of course there are. Those good decent blacks have a name . THEIR CALLED UNCLE TOM!!!! I'm 17 and female. If I can see this. Why can't you older people see it? Obama hates whites and this country. If I could vote I wouldn't vote. No politicians are good. I'm not a racist at all. I loved M Jackson. I just love Elvis more! As whites we are taught to hate our heritage. Well sorry I DON'T!!! Whites ruled the world for most all history. We are NOT the only slave owners either. How about the 400 years that BLACK EGYPTIANS of that time, held WHITE hebrews as slaves? It's even in the bible. Bad blacks pick and choose their history. They never like to talk about their BLACK brothers who put them in chains and sold them as slaves to white people. Who is worse? The whites who owned slaves and treated them WONDERFUL. Or the BLACKS WHO CHAINED THEM AND SOLD THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE?? Blacks and whites need to wakeup if the USA is to survive. Black people. If you want to love Africa so much, why not go back there? Are you afraid of the poverty and starvation and killing that white slave owners saved you from? It's a simple question? Did you know there were white slaves serving next to BLACKS in the cotton fields? Did you miss that part of the history lesson, OR WAS

THAT PART MISSING? Wake up blacks! Wake up whites! Wakeup America!!!!!! They are deviding us to conquer us period!!!! America has lived out its usefulness. Study this post and learn. Love to ALL. BLessings Rena

Reply · Share ›

Rena ➚ Rena · 2 years ago

Goooooo Texans!!!!!! BLessings Rena

Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons)

From Ancient Greece

4 Reply · Share ›

Rena

I love the way the paint held up. I love that nose!!!! So classic. One thing BLACK girls in America should be happy about. White girls passed on our noses to you. Mixed babies are beautiful. My niece is mixed, I love her to death. I think I spoiled her rotten! BLessings Rena. PS. No offense intended. I speak my mind.

Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) ➚ Nick The Greek · 2 years ago

They do but you have to remember the Ancient Greeks traveled to many parts of Africa/Asia and documented their travels.

2 Reply · Share ›

Valedina Bbff

Well the Ancient Greeks are considered the first civilized Europeans, which means Greece is the motherland historically of what we define as White European race today. During Alexander's reign a few Greeks, mainly outside Greece, mixed with Africans and Asians, but not that much for Ancient Greece to become a mixed country. I would say that less than 1% was non-white in Greece back then, even though we can't know for sure, since Ancient Greeks were colorblind really and didn't care about race enough to document any demographics based on race.

4 Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) ➚ Valedina Bbff · 2 years ago

You're right they didnt see see face the way we view it now but Africans an Asians were present.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Nicole ➚ I'cia(♥ My Falcons) · 2 years ago

And we are still present. My dad is Greek and my mom's from England (Jamaican originally). She's the same mix too and her boyfriend is a gorgeous Greek basketball player, like most Greek men and women. Btw, Greek dance music is the best.

see more

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II ➚ I'cia(♥ My Falcons) · 2 years ago

Poor I'cia, you are under some kind of attack pretty often and you are not being hostile or offensive at all. What you say it's true though; even greats such as Thukydides and Homer mention in their writings about African people (today we believe they referred to Ethiopians and maybe Kenyans) and one of them (Homer if I am not mistaken) described them as the people with the bronze and tan skin from the sun. That description alone proves how colorblind Ancient Greeks were indeed as Valedina said.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Maria

And this is how Carthaginians (his own people, not Eurocentric historians as you will want to believe) portrayed Hannibal: http://www.phoenician.org/hann...

Obviously whites were present in Africa too and Hannibal was one of them.

1 · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II ➔ Maria · 2 years ago

Well I don't think I'cia said that every Ancient Greek was black; actually if I am not mistaken she didn't mention black or white at all. She said that Africans and Asians (probably meaning Indians&Nomads of Mongolic origin and not Orientals) were present in Ancient Greece and I might add Rome too....She's not lying, does she? She didn't say all or 99,9% were black or anything. Some made it about race and numbers, which is the typical reaction of most people nowadays who are race-based. Also it's true that people of European heritage were present in Africa too, Cleopatra was Greek for example, it's historically verified. Egyptians named Alexandria after Alexander the Great, so yes, nothing new here.

1 · Reply · Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons)

Exactly! The world is more than black and white! I was asked a question and answered it. As a student of anthropology it amazes me how people turn everything into a black and white debate when we all hailed from the same place.

4 · Reply · Share ›

Theodoros II

We all hailed from Greece you mean right? :P hehe.
I know you probably go by the scientific theory that every human comes from Africa and due to evolution, climate and weather conditions we changed characteristics, facial features, skin color etc. It could be true, but there are so many theories really. At least i hope when we die, all the unanswered questions of this lifetime gets answered someway.

All I know is that race and religion have been two of the main reasons and factors humanity has suffered so much brutality, when in reality those two should bring us together not separate us.
Did you see what these two Nigerian Muslims did to this man in London? Now tell me, if they had the same skin color and religion would they do that to him? Human race....pffff!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) [illegible] •

That was terrible! You're right race and religion have a lot to do with the world s issues. I think like you, I hope after passing all our unanswered questions will be answered, especially our purpose!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

I'cia(♥ My Falcons) ➔ Maria • 2 years ago

Were we talking about whites being present in Africa? No. I never said whites weren't present in Africa . Egypt housed libraries and universities that people from Ancient Greece traveled to. As Theo said below the city of Alexandria was named after Alexander the Great.! I never made it a black or white issue. The world's people are more diverse than black and white!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Djole • 2 years ago

Wery nice list.Wandering Jew is very interesting,never heard of him.

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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